

HB 1220 -- FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Austin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 7 to 4.

Currently, an individual who has been convicted of, or has pled guilty to, any state or federal felony is prohibited from possessing firearms under Section 571.070, RSMo. This bill adds a provision to restore the rights of certain non-violent felons to keep firearms. In order to be eligible the offender must:

- (1) Ten years must have passed since the offender was released from confinement, probation, or parole, whichever is later and has not been subsequently arrested;
- (2) The petitioner has not been found guilty of any other felony under the laws of Missouri or any other state of the United States;
- (3) The petitioner is not the respondent of an order of protection;
- (4) The petitioner has not been found guilty of a dangerous felony;
- (5) The petitioner is not required to register as a sex offender;
- (6) The petitioner is not violent; and
- (7) The petitioner does not present a threat to public safety.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is a response to current litigation involving felon in possession statutes. This bill is sensible and will increase the rights of gun owners in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Austin; Missouri Family Network; Whitney ODaniel; and Ron Calzone.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the prosecutors in Missouri are waiting to see what higher courts say about recent lower court decisions. Once the courts have made rulings they will take a more definitive position. They request that the legislature not make sweeping changes until the courts have reviewed the cases.

Testifying on the bill were Robert McCulloch, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, and Missouri Association of Prosecuting

Attorneys.